

URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER
1300 FRANKLIN, 6TH FLOOR, ROOM #679

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner David Madore, Chair
Sam Crummett
Jim Hodges
Jeff Sarvis
David Scott
Bart Stepp
Mayor Ron Onslow
Tim Wedding

Clark County
City of Battle Ground
City of Camas
City of La Center
City of Washougal
City of Woodland
City of Ridgefield
Town of Yacolt

GUESTS

Kay Hutchins – REACH/ACE, Diane McWithey and Mike Wilson – Share, Timothy Buckley – Greenstone Architecture, Tomi Blackledge and Pat Becker – Children's Center, Denise Stone and Matt Jefferis – CSNW, Dr. Tillie Makepeace – Janus Youth Programs, Roy Johnson – VHA, Peggy Sheehan – City of Vancouver, Melissa Edwards – Evergreen Habitat, Kathy Armstrong – Proud Ground

STAFF

Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce, Samantha Whitley, Cathy Higley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Madore at 8:31 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of February 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes

David Scott made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2014, seconded by Mayor Ron Onslow; motion carried.

III. 2014 Available Funding

Pete Munroe gave an update on the 2014 funding for the CDBG and HOME programs. Pete informed the group that HUD had not announced the allocations yet; however, he expected an answer by Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Pete explained that HUD has 60 days from the time the omnibus appropriation is signed before they are required to make their announcement. Funding for 2014 is expected to be the same amount as 2013. The proposed allocation for 2014 is \$537,000 for the CDBG Infrastructure category, \$328,000 for CDBG Social Services category and \$419,000 for HOME projects.

IV. CDBG Project Scoring and Selection

Pete provided a review of the top scoring CDBG recommended projects. The UCPB recommended fully funding Washougal J Street Sidewalks, Yacolt's Pavilion project and Woodland's Old Town Connections project in the CDBG Infrastructure category.

In the CDBG Social Service category, the UCPB recommended fully funding the Children's Center project, Share ASPIRE case management and CSNW Wellness Center Renovation.

In order to fully fund CSNW, \$12,500 in CDBG funds were moved from the Infrastructure category to the Social Service category.

Top Scoring CDBG Infrastructure projects

Washougal J Street Sidewalk	Fully Funded (\$280,000)
Woodland Old Town Connections	Fully Funded (\$75,000)
Yacolt Pavilion	Fully Funded (\$169,500)

Top Scoring CDBG Social Services projects

Children's Center Building for the Future	Fully Funded (\$153,000)
Share ASPIRE Case Management	Fully Funded (\$50,000)
CSNW The Wellness Center Reno	Fully Funded (\$133,900)

David Scott made a motion to move \$12,500 from the Infrastructure category to the Social Service category in order to fully fund CSNW Wellness, seconded by Jim Hodges; motion carried.

[Editor's Note: not all of the \$12,500 should be moved to Social Services, only \$8,900 was moved. The remaining \$3,600 of Infrastructure category funds will be held for contingency or used in the next funding round.]

V. HOME Project Scoring and Selection

The HOME funding recommendations included full funding for the following three projects: Janus Youth Foundations program, Share ASPIRE program and ACE/REACH Senior Housing project. CSNW will receive partial funding of \$34,900 for the CSNW CHEC program.

Top Scoring HOME projects

Janus Youth Foundations	Fully Funded (\$300,000)
Share ASPIRE	Fully Funded (\$250,000)
ACE/REACH Senior Housing project.	Fully Funded (\$104,100)
CSNW Wellness	Partially Funded (\$34,900)

Mayor Ron Onslow made a motion to recommend full funding for Janus Youth Foundations program, Share ASPIRE program, ACE/REACH Senior Housing project and partial funding of \$34,900 for the CSNW CHEC program, seconded by David Scott; motion carried.

VI. HUD Updates

Pete distributed handouts from the National Association of Counties (NACO), an organization that lobbies for counties. The economic output growth rate for Clark County was 0.1 percent; the unemployment rate change was -1.1pps; job growth rate was 2.7 percent; and the median house price growth rate was 15.2 percent.

Pete also provided copies of HUD's 2015 budget and explained that 84 percent of the budget will be used for renewal of existing rental assistance and capital needs for public housing. Pete added that there is also rental assistance through various homeless programs. That only leaves a small amount of the budget for CDBG and HOME programs. Pete explained that if rents go up one percent

nationwide, every other program has to decrease by five percent. If HUD's budget stays the same, and rents continue to go up, there will be less money available for CDBG and HOME programs.

Samantha Whitley shared information she learned about the low- to moderate-income summary data from the census at the HUD briefing she attended in Washington D.C. on March 1, 2014. Steve Johnson had given an update at the briefing and explained some of the problems with gathering low- to moderate-income data. Steve had explained that the census went from a 10-year long form to an annual short form American Community Survey (ACS). The 10-year census will collect data from a larger number of people; however, it won't collect income information anymore. The ACS gathers income information, but it has a much smaller sampling size.

HUD's regulations state that CDBG must use block groups to determine low-income areas. Since the ACS data is less accurate, the income information for the block groups can vary widely from year to year. Samantha mentioned that urban counties were seeing a nationwide move of poverty into the counties rather than concentrated in the cities, and most counties have had a general increase in their CDBG funding.

Samantha informed everyone that the new ACS data will be required by HUD at the start of this program year, July 1, 2014. If an approved project does not have a contract in place by July 1 and the low- to moderate-income areas change, the project will not be funded. Samantha added that as soon as the data for planning purposes is posted, County staff will be scrutinizing the data to see if the current projects are still eligible.

V. Other

Samantha reminded the group about the upcoming 40th anniversary for CDGB in April and said County staff may be asking about different spotlight projects as part of our CDBG celebration week.

Pete requested the Board only convene if there is project funding that needs to be changed for reallocation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m. by Commissioner Madore.